

FALL 2016 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine

Homecoming
2016





*Dr. Jim Henderson
1994
President
Northwestern State
University*

My fellow alumni,

By the time you read this, the university will be in the full swing of the fall semester and all of the activities that entails: football, soccer, volleyball, pep rallies, service projects and, most importantly, meaningful learning inside and outside the classroom. We began the semester by welcoming an impressive freshman class and, as always, the NSU family and the Natchitoches community went above and beyond welcoming our students, helping prepare them for their academic journey.

Essential to our aspiration to become the nation's premiere regional university is a student experience second to none, and uniquely Northwestern State. Dr. Chris Maggio has served on an interim basis as the Vice President of the Student Experience. I am proud to announce the University of Louisiana System Board of Directors has approved the appointment of Dr. Maggio on a permanent basis, and we look forward to his continued leadership.

Just before the semester began, however, many of our students from south Louisiana faced unspeakable challenges when their homes flooded, and there were uncertainties about when and if they would be able to return to class. The Northwestern State family responded by reaching out to those students with the promise to serve their needs to the best of our abilities. Our faculty, staff and students sprang into action to provide what assistance we could and received overwhelming support in the form of donations of bedding, school supplies and food items to assist those who had lost everything. Student groups, who were not yet in school, independently organized relief efforts and headed to south Louisiana to help. This illustrates the sense of family, compassion and leadership that makes Northwestern State more than just a place to earn a diploma.

In closing, I must acknowledge the great loss to the Natchitoches/Northwestern family, and indeed, all of Louisiana, when our friend, Jimmy Long Sr., was killed in a traffic accident Aug. 9. Mr. Jimmy was a member of the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System and for 50 years was a powerful force for education in Louisiana, especially Northwestern State University. Just a few days later, we lost another member of the family, Carroll Long, the beloved chaplain of the Demon football team and one of our strongest supporters of NSU. Both are treasured members of the Long Purple Line. In their honor, we will proudly carry on with a legacy of vision, leadership and loyalty.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.



*Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of
External Affairs
for University
Advancement*

Dear alumni,

If you have the impression that things at Northwestern State have been tremendously busy and that many exciting things are happening on all of our campuses, you are correct.

The fall semester started with a bang and the weeks leading up to Homecoming always fly by. Already, months of preparation have gone into making Homecoming 2016 exciting and memorable. Please take a moment to tear out the centerfold of this edition of Alumni Columns, clip to your refrigerator or bulletin board and make plans to attend this year's celebration. Our Friday evening events -- the parade, pep rally and Rockin' on the Riverbank festival -- continue to grow in popularity and there are many fun family events planned for our Saturday home football games. All of our alumni and friends are welcome.

There are many ways you can stay involved with Northwestern State, by joining an alumni chapter, visiting in person or following us on social media. Feel free to join our quarterly Alumni Chats on Twitter @nsulaalumni or follow our activities on Facebook. If you are interested

in mentoring students, connecting with prospective interns or young professionals or seeking career advancement for yourself, visit demoNSU.net to make that happen. Don't be afraid to reach out to us. In the past several months, we have developed more partnerships with individuals, businesses and corporations than ever before and we all benefit from these relationships.

We are running on all cylinders here at NSU. Thank you for all you do in supporting Northwestern State University.

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Alumni Hall of Distinction will include three new awards

The Northwestern State University Alumni Association is accepting nominations for its Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, along with three new alumni awards.

The Long Purple Line was created in 1990 to provide recognition and appreciation to former Northwestern State students whose career accomplishments or service to their fellow man have enhanced the reputation of the university. Selection to the Long Purple Line is the most prominent honor bestowed by NSU upon its alumni.

The 2016 inductees into the Long Purple Line were Greg Ashlock, Foster Campbell, Dr. James L. Holly, Glenn Talbert and Dr. Randall J. Webb. Since 1990, 115 Northwestern State alumni have been made part of the Long Purple Line.

Nominations can be made at northwesternalumni.com/lplnomination and will be accepted until Nov. 1. A 12-person committee, which will include alumni, will select the 2017 inductees who will be honored as part of the Spring Commencement exercises on May 12, 2017.

The Outstanding Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award and **Outstanding Alumnus/Alumna Distinguished Service Award** will be given to an NSU alumnus/alumna who has exhibited their dedication and loyalty to Northwestern's programs and mission.

The candidate must demonstrate an early record of distinguished service to Northwestern and continued interest in serving the university in his/her life as a volunteer, donor and /or advocate.

The recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award must be an alumnus/alumna of NSU and have attained alumni status within the past 10 years and be 40 or younger at the time of the nomination.

The recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus/Alumna Distinguished Service Award must be an alumnus/alumna of NSU and must have attained alumni status more than 10 years ago and be 40 or older at the time of the nomination.

Nominations may be made by any alumnus or alumna, by any alumni chapter or by any member of the faculty or staff of University.

The NSU Alumni Association Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented to a person who has exhibited his or her dedication and loyalty to Northwestern's programs and mission.

The candidate must be a member of the NSU Alumni Association and have continued interest in serving the university in his/her life as a volunteer, donor and /or advocate, an exemplary record of volunteer time, talents and service to the NSU Alumni Association and active involvement with a chapter, alumni interest group, affiliate program, NSU Alumni Board or other forms of volunteer service to Northwestern State University.

Nominations may be made by any alumnus or alumna, by any alumni chapter, or by any member of the faculty or staff of University.

Nominations can be submitted at Northwesternalumni.com/outstandingservice, Northwesternalumni.com/youngoutstandingservice and Northwesternalumni.com/volunteeraward. The deadline to submit nominations for the three alumni awards is Oct. 1. The awards will be presented as part of Homecoming activities on Oct. 21-22.



University's historic books are available for viewing online

Two historical books about Northwestern State University are available for viewing online. "Northwestern State University of Louisiana: 1884-1984 A History" and "Northwestern at 125," are available in a searchable pdf format. The publications can be viewed via traditions.nsula.edu/digital-archives.

"Northwestern State University of Louisiana: 1884-1984 A History" was authored by the late Dr. Marietta LeBreton, a long-time professor of history, in honor of the school's centennial. The book is out of print and difficult to locate.

"Northwestern at 125" is a commemorative coffee table book that describes the history and traditions of Northwestern State through pictures and narrative. The book by Jerry Pierce, Dr. Steve Horton, Tom Whitehead and Don Sepulvado was published in 2009 as the university celebrated the 125th year of its founding.

Latest American Girl has Natchitoches roots

The newest American Girl to make her debut may be a Detroit native, but she has roots in Natchitoches. The latest historical BeForever doll is based on a character created by author **Denise Lewis Patrick**, a Northwestern State University graduate, and focuses on Melody Ellison, a 9-year-old African American girl growing up in Detroit in 1964 against the backdrop of the Civil Rights movement and the Motown music scene. Melody's story is told in the doll's accompanying books, "No Ordinary Sound" and "Never Stop Singing" by Patrick.

Patrick is a freelance writer, editor, instructor and literary consultant who has authored books of poetry, short stories, picture and board books for children, non-fiction biographies, middle grade novels and a young adult novel. She lives in New York City and teaches writing and critical thinking at Nyack College. Her previous successful historical fiction series focusing on the American Girl character Cecile Rey exposed the Creole culture of Louisiana to a broad audience through the popular doll and accompanying books.

Patrick's new character, Melody, is a singer who loves to perform at church and in her community. As Melody gains more awareness of racial inequality and her sense of community grows from her extended family to include her neighborhood and, ultimately, all African Americans, she is inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to lift her voice for fairness

and equality. The story is intended to engage, entertain and educate by helping youngsters connect with a piece of American history. Melody's story was researched and formed with input from an advisory board to ensure the story was accurate, sensitive and hopeful. In the story, Melody's family has roots in Alabama and Patrick said some aspects of the story were lifted from her own life as an African American growing up in Natchitoches in the 1960s.

"Anytime I write anything, there are elements from my own experience that trickle in there," she said. "There are things in the way her family interacts and the fact that she has extended family. They talk and the kids are involved in the conversation. I didn't grow up in a home where kids were excluded from asking questions. We were aware of what was happening in the nation and could talk about it."

Patrick loves historical fiction but when she began her first collaboration with American Girl, she was a bit surprised by the subculture surrounding the dolls.

"I don't have daughters. I have four sons, so I thought 'This is interesting but so different from the stuff going on in my house at the time,'" she said.

Patrick earned a degree in journalism at Northwestern State in 1977 and a master's in creative writing from the University of New Orleans. She has written narratives for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center exhibition, published a



Denise Lewis Patrick

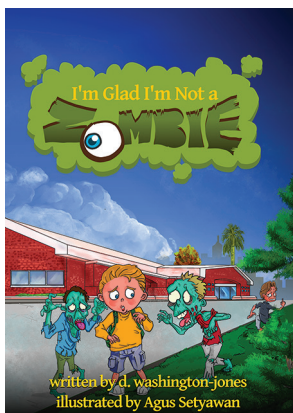
review in the New York Times and has written sections for Fodor's Travel Guides to New York City. She has also worked as an editor for Scholastic, Inc., as well as several other publishing companies and teaches intermediate writing at Nyack College.

Patrick was lauded by the African American Academy of Arts and Letters for Children's Book of the Year, was a runner-up for the Lamplighter Award by the National Christian School Association and has had two books listed as Best Books for the Teenager by the New York Public Library. She has served on the advisory board for the Books for Kids Foundation, as a mentor for an afterschool writing club, as a writer's coach and as an elementary school reading volunteer.

She was inducted into Northwestern State University's Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, in 2014.

For more information, visit her website at deniselewispatrick.com.

e-book examines bullying, accepting those who are different



Dorothy Jones Washington released her second children's e-book, "I'm Glad I'm Not a Zombie," a rhyming poetic story that describes a child imagining how his life would be if he were one of the undead.

The short story is for children ages 4-11 and examines some topical issues.

"He imagines what it would be like if he were a zombie in school, riding his bus, in the classroom and what kind of interaction there would be,"

Jones explained. "The story addresses some issues like bullying and being different and being treated a certain way because of that difference."

Jones is a writer, an educator and a mother of four who teaches economics courses in Northwestern State University's Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences. "I'm Glad I'm Not A Zombie" is available for \$2.99 at amazon.com.

Nursing professor named fellow of AANP

Dr. Sandra Petersen (1993) was named a fellow by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners earlier this year. Petersen is an associate professor within the UT Tyler School of Nursing's family nurse practitioner program and directs the university's newly-created doctorate in nursing practice program. She has served UT Tyler since 2012.

Petersen holds a bachelor of science in nursing from Northwestern State University, a master of science in nursing from UT Tyler and a doctorate of nursing practice from Rush College of Nursing.

AANP Fellows are selected based on superior contributions to clinical practice, research, education or policy.

During the past two decades, Petersen established clinical compliance programs that have changed the way in which senior care is viewed and administered at the many assisted living communities, memory care communities,

long-term care communities, hospitals and hospice/homecare companies who have sought her services and expertise. She recently received a grant from the Baylor Deerbrook Charitable Trust to conduct research in the assisted living memory care setting with robotic pets. In this study, she is examining the utilization of the robots in residents with dementia and other related disorders. Petersen also received an AANP grant for the creation of an online continuing education module for assessment and management of pain in cognitively impaired elderly.

In addition, the UT Tyler Faculty Learning Committee awarded Petersen the 2012 "Technology and Innovations Award" for creative use of technology within virtual learning environments. The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing also bestowed her with the 2013-14 "Excellence in Nursing Practice" honor.

Overton Brooks staff member awarded Nightingale Award

Ryan Jacobsen (2008) was recognized as the Clinical Practice Nurse of the Year during the annual Nightingale Awards gala, hosted by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation. The Nightingale Awards are often referred to as the Academy Awards of nursing and recognize quality service, commitment and excellence for registered nurses throughout the United States.

Jacobsen is a registered nurse at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center (OBVAMC) and is currently the program manager for the Transition Care Management (TCM) team, overseeing veterans who have returned from Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

Jacobsen is a veteran himself. He served with the Louisiana Army National Guard from 2001-2009. He deployed to Iraq from 2004-2005 as a Cavalry Scout. His military service provided the inspiration to pursue a nursing career.

"Prior to going to Iraq my plan for a career was to go law school and join the FBI," he said. "During my combat deployment, we had many situations where people required medical attention. Prior to deployment we were all trained in basic lifesaving skills so that was enough to get by at the time, but this sparked an interest in understanding the science behind medicine."

Jacobsen received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained while serving in Iraq.

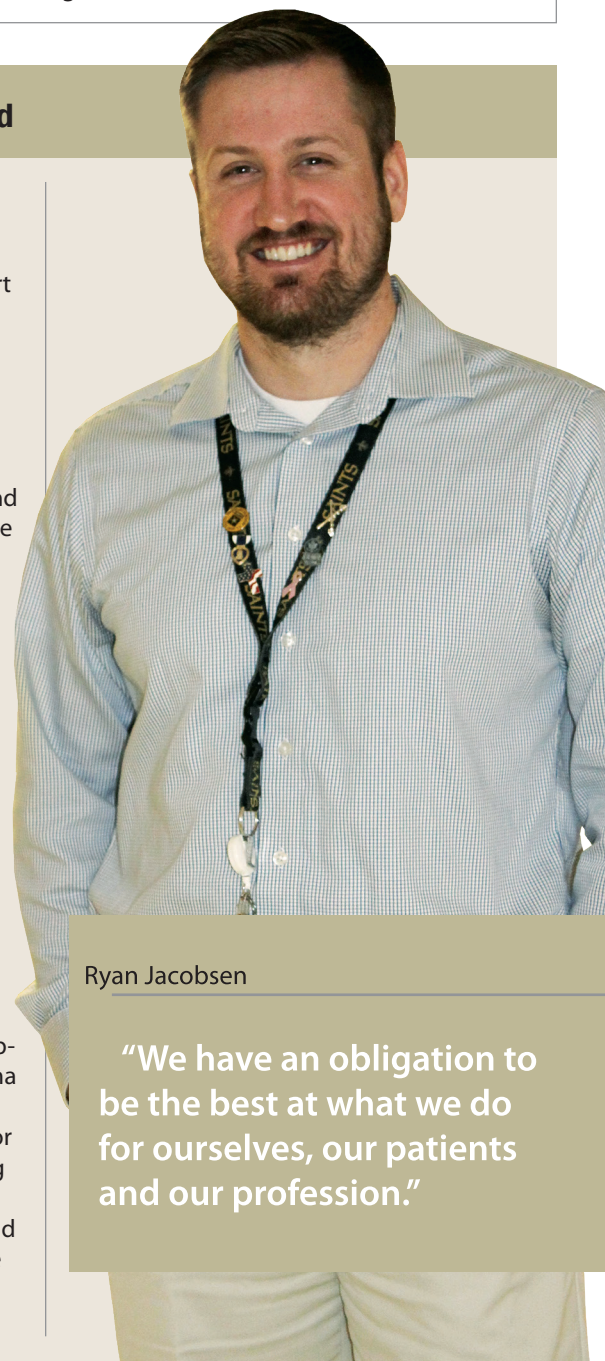
"I think all nurses have a personal

story of some interaction of how nursing found them. I spent five days with my best friend in the ICU at the Baghdad Green Zone Combat Support Hospital after an IED attack," he said. "Around the fourth day, I remember looking up at this Air Force Nurse; it seemed like she never went off duty and was always there."

"I asked that nurse 'How do you do your job, surrounded by all of this?' and her answer was very simple—'Because I like to help people.' She followed up by asking how I did my job, always fighting, always in danger. My reply was that I did my job for my buddies around me. She said, 'See, we both do our jobs for other people.' This planted a seed and reinforced my interest in not only medicine but possibly nursing specifically."

After completing nursing school at NSU, Jacobsen earned a masters in nursing administration from LSU Health Sciences Center School of Nursing. He is currently a doctoral candidate in nursing administration at Chatham University. He has served at OBVAMC for the past two years, supporting veterans in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

Not only does Jacobsen advocate for Veterans, he is an advocate for nursing education and training. He believes knowledge is essential for personal and professional growth and improves the nursing profession and patient care.



Ryan Jacobsen

"We have an obligation to be the best at what we do for ourselves, our patients and our profession."

Kevin Tison inspiring others through teaching and performing

Kevin Tison (1993) began teaching high choral music part time through a series of opportunities he was not pursuing. But he unexpectedly fell in love with teaching and has enjoyed a tremendous amount of success in choral music. In March, Tison will take his high school choir from Huntington Beach Union High School near Los Angeles to perform at the prestigious American Choral Director's Association conference in Minnesota for the second time in five years, an almost unheard of accomplishment.

"It was not a career path that was ever planned or desired," Tison said. "Dr. Burt Allen strongly encouraged taking education classes, but I was a typical stubborn, 'know it all' undergrad that didn't listen."

The Tioga native earned a bachelor's in music in piano performance at NSU and was involved in marching band playing French horn and percussion, wind ensemble and orchestra and sang and accompanied the choirs.

After graduating from Northwestern State, Tison attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth to earn a master's in piano performance and was an assistant director/accompanist for Opera Theatre Workshop while studying conducting and orchestration. He was selected to participate with the prestigious Van Cliburn Institute and performed the Samuel Barber Sonata (movements 3 and 4) in a masterclass for John Browning. He graduated with honors.

Tison began working with vocal and instrumental church music in 1989 and, after winning an orchestral arranging competition and getting a publishing deal with Lifeway Music in Nashville in 1997, he began full-time work as a church orchestral director in Houston before being recruited to a larger position in Southern California in 2000.

Beginning in 2002, Tison worked part time at Laguna Hills High School in South Orange County for three years, then took a full-time position as director of vocal music at Fountain Valley (California) High School. He has spent the last 11 years growing the vocal music program at FVHS from 140 students to over 300, from four choirs

to eight ranging from the Troubadours elite chamber choir to Advanced Men, Vocal Jazz Women, Concert Choir and beginning Women and Men's choirs.



Kevin Tison

"Since being at Fountain Valley High School, I have led tours nationally to San Diego and San Francisco, performed throughout the state, in New Orleans, New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, Seattle, Honolulu and Dallas and even performing at my alma mater, Northwestern," Tison said. "I have performed at major universities and many iconic cathedrals, symphony halls, historic California missions, sporting events, and churches across the country."

Six international performance tours include Germany, Austria, France, England, China, Hong Kong, British Columbia, Croatia and Italy that included such venues as Notre Dame Cathedral, France; Bath Abbey, England; St. Peter's Basilica, Rome; St. Mark's Basilica, Venice; St. Stephen, Vienna; Shanghai Conservatory of Music Concert Hall, China, and a specially recorded radio broadcast across all of Hong Kong.

"One of greatest performance honors was the selection of my Troubadours in 2011 to perform for the first time at the National Conference of the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) in Chicago, performing in Orchestra Hall," he said. "Our performance of the Hindemith Six Chansons received great acclaim and a lengthy standing ovation."

Earlier this year, the Troubadours were also selected as a feature choir at the California All-State Music Education Conference in San Jose, also to great acclaim.

"FVHS choirs consistently earn the highest of ratings and recognition throughout California and the United States for performing unusual and challenging repertoire with an exceptionally expressive and lyrical delivery," Tison said. "Their style and distinctive sound truly sets them apart from most high school choirs."

Tison was in Rome this past summer when he opened the "Congratulations" email inviting the Troubadours to perform at next year's ACDA National Conference in Minneapolis.

In addition to his teaching, he regularly performs with the Pacific Chorale, a professional choir in Orange County, singing at the Hollywood Bowl, Walt Disney Concert Hall and Segerstrom Symphony Hall. He also works as a classical pianist performing chamber music and accompanying other musicians. Most recently he presented a series of performances as piano soloist of the Beethoven Choral Fantasy in California and Michigan.

"I am very proud of my students and the level of musicianship that we achieve together," Tison said. "I am so incredibly blessed to be able to live in beautiful Southern California and to get up each day and go make music with these wonderfully receptive and enthusiastic students! I could not even dream of doing anything different with my life."

Tison likes to balance his music life "by doing crazy adventure stuff... boxing, Crossfit, Ironman triathlons, private aviation, scuba diving."

Tison credits instruction and opportunities he was given at Northwestern State and at TCU for making him the musician, teacher and mentor he has become, thanking NSU faculty Bill Brent, Dr. Burt Allen, Dr. Charles Vinson and other teachers from high school and post-secondary years.

"They mentored me, pushed me really hard and gave me opportunities to truly spread my wings," he said. "I am so blessed to have many of them still in my life today as colleagues, mentors and friends. I hope many students and young people might be encouraged or inspired to find a wonderful career in music and teaching."



Former Poet Laureate Julie Kane named professor emeritus upon retirement

*"Working with the
Brainy Acts Poetry Society has been
one of my favorite things to do."*

Dr. Julie Kane turned a page in her career as a professor of English at Northwestern State University, as she retired in July after 17 years on the faculty. During her retirement celebration, colleagues announced Kane's status as professor emeritus.

Kane has brought national attention to Northwestern State through her poetry. She has written five books of poetry, "Paper Bullets" written in 2013, "Jazz Funeral," "Rhythm and Booze," "Body and Soul" and "The Bartender Poems."

Kane won the Donald Justice Poetry Prize for "Jazz Funeral." A former Fulbright Scholar, Kane was a winner of the National Poetry Series Open Competition for "Rhythm & Booze." She was a finalist for one of the major prizes in American poetry, The Poets' Prize for the Best Collection of American Poetry, and a judge for the 2005 National Book Award in Poetry. Northwestern State honored her with the 2004 Mildred Hart Bailey Research Award.

She served as Louisiana's poet laureate from 2011-13. Her work has been featured twice on "The Writer's Almanac" on NPR. Kane frequently gives poetry readings around the country.

"I'm lucky to be a poet and not a fiction writer because I can work on a poem for a few hours whenever I have the time and at least get a first draft done," said Kane. "I look forward to being able to focus on my writing."

Kane is working on a series of poems relating to Irish-Americans. Kane, who is of Irish heritage, is going back to an

area she first started working on in college.

"I'm going to look at women in the culture, how they were shaped in the culture and the choices they made," she said.

Kane came to NSU in 1999 and only planned to stay for a year. She quickly began to love the university and city of Natchitoches.

"I came here on a one-year appointment as a visiting assistant professor. I had just received my Ph.D. and the department head Ray Wallace was looking to expand the department's creative writing offerings," said Kane. "I was going to spend the year getting teaching experience and looking for a permanent job. I really liked it here and it seemed like a good fit for me. My colleagues seemed to like me. A position came open and I was able to get a permanent job. I have enjoyed it here because it is a wonderful atmosphere. The students are friendly and my colleagues are helpful and enjoyable to be around."

Kane quickly found she could be an effective teacher of creative writing.

"In my second semester, I taught my first creative writing class and knew I had found my niche," said Kane. "Creative writing is something that gave my students confidence in themselves."

In her class, Kane uses the Iowa Workshop Method with great success.

"The class as a whole reads each other's work and gives feedback," said Kane. "I have found my students to

be very sensitive about the feelings of their classmates and open minded. Sometimes, they can be intimidated to get feedback from me, but when they get suggestions for improvement from fellow students, it presents an opportunity for growth."

Kane said she has found other activities at the university outside of the classroom to be rewarding. For the past six years, she advised the Brainy Acts Poetry Society, a group of Northwestern State students with an interest in writing and presenting poetry.

"Working with the Brainy Acts Poetry Society has been one of my favorite things to do," said Kane. "There are very few English majors in the group and they use poetry as a way of self expression and a means of bringing about social change because of injustices in society. They are very popular in campus and around the state. They are not interested in poetry for the sake of being in the Norton Anthology. It is a way to express themselves and be inspired."

She has been faculty advisor for Argus, the campus literary magazine for 13 years. In that period, Argus has been ranked among the top campus literary magazines in the country.

"I have looked back over the past issues and am reminded how talented our students are," said Kane. "The Argus staff always did a professional job of designing and editing. Each issue had its own identity and let people know what NSU students are thinking and feeling."

Cosumano, Maynard named to national ROTC Hall of Fame

Two Northwestern State University alumni were inducted in a special ceremony into the U.S. Army ROTC National Hall of Fame earlier this year. Held at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the induction ceremony was part of ROTC's 100th anniversary commemoration. Lieutenant General (Ret) Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr. and Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Truman Maynard were among more than 300 distinguished graduates to be honored.

The Hall of Fame is intended to honor Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduates who have distinguished themselves in military or civilian pursuits. It provides a prestigious and tangible means of recognizing and honoring Army ROTC Alumni who have made significant, lasting contributions to the Nation, the Army, and the history and traditions of the Army ROTC Program.

Cosumano commanded the NSU ROTC Cadet Corps as a senior and is an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate. He served on active duty from 1968-2004 and with distinction during the Vietnam, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom

eras. He was a Patriot Brigade Commander with units in Saudi Arabia and Turkey during Operation Desert Storm. He culminated his career as the Commanding General of the Army Space and Missile Defense Command with units in both theatres of war.

Cosumano maintained close ties with NSU's Demon Battalion and is a member of the NSU ROTC Hall of Fame and the university's alumni hall of distinction, the Long Purple Line. He is the first Colonel of the NSU Demon Regiment, an alumni organization which provides mentorship and funds to aid and attract ROTC students.

Cosumano resides in Huntsville, Alabama.

Maynard was commissioned through NSU's ROTC program in 1960 as a second lieutenant of infantry. He served on active duty and was selected the top graduate of Flight School and the Infantry Advanced Course. He piloted the Army's largest airplane during the Vietnam conflict, the CV-2B Caribou. He participated in a large scale test of the Airmobility Concept with the 11th Air Assault

Division and flew the Lockheed P-2 for special intelligence.

After tours in Vietnam, Maynard made the Commandant's List for the Army Command and General Staff College and was selected to serve as a member of its faculty as an author/instructor in the Department of Tactics. He was the top graduate of the Army Helicopter Transition Course and served as the Helicopter Unit Commander, Second Infantry Division, Korea. Serving as the project manager for Training Devices, he was engaged in developing flight simulators and later managed the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) Program.

Maynard retired from active duty in 1980 and resides in Natchitoches. He was instrumental in forming NSU's ROTC alumni organization, the Demon Regiment. Serving as the first Chief of Staff, he devoted countless hours to building, organizing, and leading the Regiment. He took on an ambitious fundraising campaign resulting in a \$100,000 endowment from the alumni for the NSU ROTC program.

'Above the Best' award targeted to outstanding ROTC cadet



2nd Lt.
Alejandro
Cespedes

A graduate of Northwestern State University's ROTC program has established a scholarship through the NSU Foundation that will be awarded to a hardworking, motivated and dedicated cadet who contributes to the betterment of the Demon Battalion and is seen as a leader with great potential. 2nd Lt. Alejandro Cespedes, a 2015 graduate, said he supports NSU's ROTC cadets because they are the future of the nation and the Armed Forces.

"I'm a strong believer in the importance of a college education," Cespedes said. "By being able to graduate college, you not only improve your life, but also the opportunity to impact life of others. As for the NSU Cadets, not only are they gaining a higher education but they are developing themselves to be the leaders of 'America's Son's and Daughter's.' Being in the Armed Forces isn't an easy task,

especially in a time of war. It's a calling that less than 1 percent of the nation's population answers. I thought that by giving back to the program, I could alleviate some stress of the recipient, as we all know college can be a stressful time in one's life, especially if they are juggling the minimum five credits and countless hours ROTC adds on top of a normal class load."

The Andrea Rene Cespedes "Above the Best" Scholarship is a \$500 award that will be presented to a NSU Army ROTC cadet for one semester with preference given to cadets from the Leesville/Fort Polk area. Recipients must maintain a grade point average of 3.3 or better, score 255 or better in the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) with at least 85 percent in each event and must graduate and be commissioned through NSU's ROTC program. Recipients must not be on full ROTC scholarships and must exhibit all Army Values and Core Leader Competencies IAW FM 6-22.

Cespedes named the scholarship after his daughter and after the U.S. Army Aviation Branch motto.

"I named it after my daughter because she was my motivation throughout college, not only to pass and get by, but to exceed the standards and do my best," Cespedes explained. "I saw the Aviation Branch motto fit for the scholarship, not only because I'm an Army aviator, but also because the standards I set for the scholarship require you to be 'Above the Best.' The standards I set for the scholarship are all something I have met myself and maintained. I couldn't have asked for someone to meet a requirement I myself didn't. The scholarship was created to recognize the hard work and dedication the cadet has accomplished. Hopefully it will encourage all of them to compete for it and strive to be nothing but 'Above the Best.'"

Cespedes is a second lieutenant, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment based at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Music scholarship honors band director/jazz musician

F.B. Ward was a band director who loved music and loved maintaining a close network of friends among his colleagues in music education. As a musician and band director, F.B. Ward had a long and distinguished career teaching young musicians in Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana, competing in contests, arranging music and performing jazz standards with different ensembles. In his memory, his children Mark Ward, Barbara McCoy, Jana Mayeaux and Joel Ward, have established the F.B. Ward Scholarship in Jazz at Northwestern State University.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student selected by the coordinator of NSU's Jazz Orchestra and the director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts. The student must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or better, while striving to excel in jazz band at NSU.

"Our dad had a fantastic career," Mark Ward said. "Think of what music and jazz were like in the 50s and 60s. A lot of those guys were in the military and there was a big culture of music there, whether it was drilling/marching techniques or playing swing (jazz). There was a close community and a lot of overlap with people who knew each other. The band directors in those days shared best practices, and they played swing, jazz and big band music."

F.B. Ward was especially gifted at saxophone and piano, playing by ear and performing for friends and family. "He loved modulation, change of key and moving from one song to the next seamlessly," Mark Ward said. "He wrote arrangements for jazz band by modifying chord progression, rhythm and instrument voicing. The music and performances in high school jazz were



Mark Ward, Galindo Rodriguez and Barbara McCoy

written to fit his band."

"The recipient will be a student participating in the University Jazz Orchestra or jazz combos," said Galindo Rodriguez, director of NSU's Jazz Orchestra and jazz ensembles.

"The man's life was about music, teaching, and competing to be the best," Mark Ward said. "Although he had many other interests and obligations, including raising four kids with his loving wife, he continued to press forward towards the high bar of excellence in music education in Louisiana and beyond."

Scholarship for beloved math teacher will benefit STEM student



Peter H. Breedlove

"I may not be the world's best mathematician, but you'll be hard pressed to find a better teacher of math."

A family with a long legacy associated with Northwestern State University established a scholarship to honor the family patriarch who taught math and science to several generations of Natchitoches students. The Peter H. Breedlove Endowed Scholarship will be presented to a Northwestern State student pursuing a degree in a STEM (science, technology, mathematics and engineering).

Peter H. Breedlove graduated from Natchitoches High School in 1924 and earned a bachelor's degree from NSU when it was known as Louisiana State Normal College on June 10, 1929. He earned a master's degree in education in 1950 at Louisiana State University. His wife, Ila Harper Breedlove, also graduated from Normal, followed by his only daughter, Frances, and three grandchildren, Mark, Clark and Fair Hyams.

"As an algebra, physics and math teacher at Natchitoches High, he prepared hundreds of students for NSU," said Fair Hyams, Peter Breedlove's grandson. "He once told me, 'I may not be the world's best mathematician, but you'll be hard pressed to find a better teacher of math.' The 1953 Natchitoches High Chinquapin yearbook was dedicated to him and was filled with

praise from his students.... 'You're the best math teacher, ever!' 'You're the finest teacher I knew' and a simple, 'Thank you, Mr. Breedlove.'"

After retiring from teaching in 1969, Breedlove lived the remainder of his life in Natchitoches and was an avid fan of NSU athletics. He passed away in 1982. His daughter, Frances, passed away April 9 this year after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

"One of the last times I saw her truly happy was when we talked about the scholarship in her dad's honor," Hyams said. "My mother was always proud of her father and proud to be known as 'Pete's beautiful and smart daughter.' This was her way of honoring her dad for the school he loved."

Hyams said everyone in Natchitoches seemed to know his grandfather.

"When I was 10 years old, we'd drive through Natchitoches and the policeman directing traffic would say, 'Hey Mr. Breedlove,' as we passed through the intersection. Young women in the department stores would greet him and often hug him. Even people on the street as we drove by would shout 'Hey, Mr. Breedlove.' I asked him, 'Granddaddy, are you famous or something?' He said, 'I taught half this town.'"

Homecoming 2016

Friday, Oct. 21

- 9:00 am – Alumni Association Board Meeting
@ Caspari Hall Conference Room, 3rd Floor
- 11:00 am – Homecoming Golf Tournament
@ NSU Rec Complex
- 1:30 pm – NSU Foundation Board Meeting
@ Caspari Hall Conference Room, 3rd Floor
- 5:00 pm – Alumni Art Exhibit - Spinning Straw Into Gold: Costume Design by Joel Ebarb
@ Orville Hanchey Gallery
- 5:30 pm – Homecoming Parade
- 6:00 pm – Pep Rally
- 6:30 pm – Rockin' on the Riverbank Homecoming Festival on the Downtown Riverbank featuring Marc Broussard
- 7:30 pm – Homecoming Awards during Rockin' on the Riverbank

Saturday, Oct. 22

- 9:00 am – Homecoming Alumni Breakfast and Bingo
@ Collins Pavilion
- 10:00 am – N Club Hall of Fame Induction
@ Magale Recital Hall
- Black Alumni Alliance Business Meeting
@ Student Union - Cane River Room
- 10:30 am – Tri Sigma Leadership Dedication
@ Tri Sigma House on Organization Row
- 11:00 am – College of Business Reception for Outstanding Business Awards
@ Russell Hall, Natchitoches Room

10.21.16
6:30 PM



MARC
BROUSSARD

NORTHWESTERN S

- 11:30 am – Luncheon for Past Homecoming Kings and Queens @ Student Union - President's Room
- 12:00 pm – Luncheon for Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity 60th Anniversary @ Student Union Ballroom
- 1:00 pm – Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Reunion @ Teacher Education Commons Area
 - Scholars' College Open House @ Morrison Hall
- 1:30 pm – Hall of Distinguished Educators Induction Ceremony @ Teacher Education Auditorium, Pod A
- 2:00 pm – Tailgating Activities @ Collins Pavilion and Donald's Demon Alley
 - Demon Regiment Open House and Tailgate @ James A. Noe Military Science Building
- 4:00 pm – President's Tailgate behind Caspari Hall (Honor Court/Distinguished Educators/Business Hall of Distinction)
- 5:15 pm – Presidential Staircase entrance with Honor court/Distinguished Educators/Business Hall of Distinction
- 5:30 pm – Pregame Activities @ Turpin Stadium
- 5:45 pm – Distinguished Educators/Business Hall of Distinguished Honors recognized on field
- 5:55 pm – Veteran Coin Toss
- 6:00 pm – Northwestern State vs. McNeese @ Turpin Stadium
- 7:30 pm – Halftime Ceremonies @ Turpin Stadium
- 9:00 pm – Win against McNeese

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Line # 39 will be celebrating their 10-year reunion during Homecoming this year. Contact Nikki Ceaser-Small for more information at nnc2003@aol.com as details are still being finalized.



NORTHWESTERN STATE
Alumni
ASSOCIATION



Kevin Murphy

Murphy establishes legacy of giving

Kevin Murphy believes that success is shaped by strong principles and a focus towards giving back. Murphy, a 1982 business administration graduate, believes everyone should give back.

"None of us got where we are solely because of ourselves," he said. "There have been many people who mentored, shaped and helped us. I've achieved success because I've surrounded myself with people who coached me to make a

difference, even after I'm gone."

Earlier this year Murphy established a bequest with the NSU Foundation that will benefit the university far into the future.

"It's about legacy," he said, "Not only for my family but a legacy that will exist long after I'm gone."

Murphy is a certified financial planner for Ameriprise with more than 33 years of experience as a private wealth advisor and franchise consultant. He is licensed and registered to conduct business in Louisiana, Arkansas and California.

He is originally from Montgomery and has many family ties to Northwestern State where he was involved with intramural sports and The Current Sauce. He and his wife Janet are parents of Tanner, 25, and Karli, 22. As a financial planner, he has worked with others over the years who wished to establish legacy gifts to benefit Northwestern State in their wills.

"I want to be an example for my children and encourage them to give," he said. "I talk to them about the importance of giving."

At NSU, he found professors and friends who encouraged him and helped launch his career.

"There is an energy on campus that is contagious, not just with students, but with alumni as well. Going to NSU was not just an education opportunity, it was a social opportunity where I interacted with professors and with friends and learned to apply how you relate to people in the business world," he said. "It's the people who shaped my life that made me successful, and you will be successful if you live by your principles."

Huddleston gift will benefit Scholars' student interested in studying abroad

A Northwestern State University alumnus is paying it forward to future NSU students through a planned gift that will leave a portion of his estate to the NSU Foundation and establish an endowed scholarship. Todd Huddleston of Metairie established the gift with the intent that it benefit a student in the Louisiana Scholars' College for all four years of study.

Huddleston was in the first graduating class of the Louisiana Scholars' College at NSU, Louisiana's only designated honors college that was established in 1987. He earned a degree in mathematics in 1991 and said he appreciated the curriculum that developed critical thinking and communication skills.

"When you go out into the world you've got to be able to speak, write and communicate," said Huddleston, who has traveled and lived abroad. "The Scholars' College introduced me to other people with other ideologies. I learned to listen to people and accept that they had different ideas, even if I didn't agree with them."

Huddleston and several of his high school classmates from New Orleans visited Northwestern State as seniors on the recommendation of their principal, NSU alum Herb Roach, who encouraged them to explore Northwestern and the new Scholars' College. Huddleston remembers Dr. Stan Chadick, Dr. Tom

Samet and Dr. Nadya Keller as important professor mentors. In addition to academic challenges at Scholars', he discovered a tremendous comradery among residents of Bossier Hall, got involved with KNWD and the Student Government Association and later pledged Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

After graduating from Northwestern State, Huddleston attended graduate school at the University of North Texas but felt burned out on mathematics and moved to Korea from 1992-99 where he taught English as a second language and studied martial arts. He attended Yonsei University to learn to speak Korean, then did radio and TV commentary on Korean culture and customs from a Western perspective.

Martial arts has been a big part of Huddleston's life since he started practice at age 9 with his father and brother, and after moving back to the U.S., he opened the successful Yonsei Martial Arts Academy in New Orleans in 1999. Earlier this summer, he joined the elite ranks of Grandmaster when he tested for his 8th degree black belt in Seoul, South Korea, and was appointed representative for Louisiana. He credits martial arts for teaching him self-discipline and keeping him on the straight and narrow as a youngster.

The recipient of the Huddleston scholarship must maintain a 3.0 or better

grade point average. Huddleston said he hopes his scholarship will help someone interested in studying abroad, just as he did in Korea. He was motivated to establish the planned gift through a sense of loyalty and a desire to express his appreciation to those who helped him as an undergraduate.

"I was in touch with my professors after I left NSU and most of my friends are people I met at NSU. You owe the people that helped you," he said. "It was the people that made my time at Northwestern special."

"Mr. Huddleston's generosity will extend far beyond the present," said Brittany McConathy, associate director of Development. "Planned gifts provide for future generations of deserving students and are a legacy for the donor at Northwestern State."

"NSU believed in me when I was a student there," Huddleston said. "That's one of the major reasons I'm giving back."

For information on establishing a planned gift at NSU, contact McConathy at (318) 357-5215 or mcconathyb@nsula.edu.



Todd Huddleston



Commercial photographer creates first-ever photography scholarship

“Through the kindness of Mr. Davis, one photography student each year will be able to use these funds to expand their learning opportunities.”

—Matt DeFord

A Northwestern State University alumnus who enjoyed a long career as a successful commercial photographer has created the first-ever endowed scholarship for a student interested in pursuing photography as a career. The Robert Davis Endowed Scholarship will be presented to a junior or senior minoring in photography with first preference given to students who aspire to become professional photographers. The student must maintain a 2.5 grade point average.

Davis of Baton Rouge was a photography hobbyist, but an elective course he took at Northwestern State pointed him in the direction of serious photography. Davis attended NSU majoring in business and participating in ROTC from 1965 until he graduated in 1968. After serving in the Army for three years, he returned to NSU on the GI Bill to pursue an MBA and enrolled in a photography class to learn the darkroom skills of processing film and developing prints.

“Photography was a serious hobby, so I took the course and it taught me so much,” he said. “I eventually had a free lance commercial photography business for 38 years. It was really good to me, and I always attributed that good fortune to that class at Northwestern.”

Commercial photography involved broad-based subject matter in relation to advertising, public relations, brochures, reports, people shots, board rooms and working situations. He migrated to digital photography around 2000. He retired two years ago and dabbles with computers as a hobby.

Davis worked with the NSU Foundation to arrange for a percentage of his investment portfolio to benefit Northwestern State. He said the ideal recipient of the Robert Davis Endowed Scholarship would be a student with a strong desire to pursue professional photography.

“Through the kindness of Mr. Davis, one photography student each year will be able to use these funds to expand their learning opportunities,” said Matt DeFord, coordinator of the Department of Fine + Graphic Art. “The student will be able to purchase photography equipment, pay tuition or use it for other living expenses. Our photography students have a history of success in the field, and with this generous endowment, they will be helped on their way.”



Kimberly Gallow

Young professional initiates scholarship, pays it forward for minority students

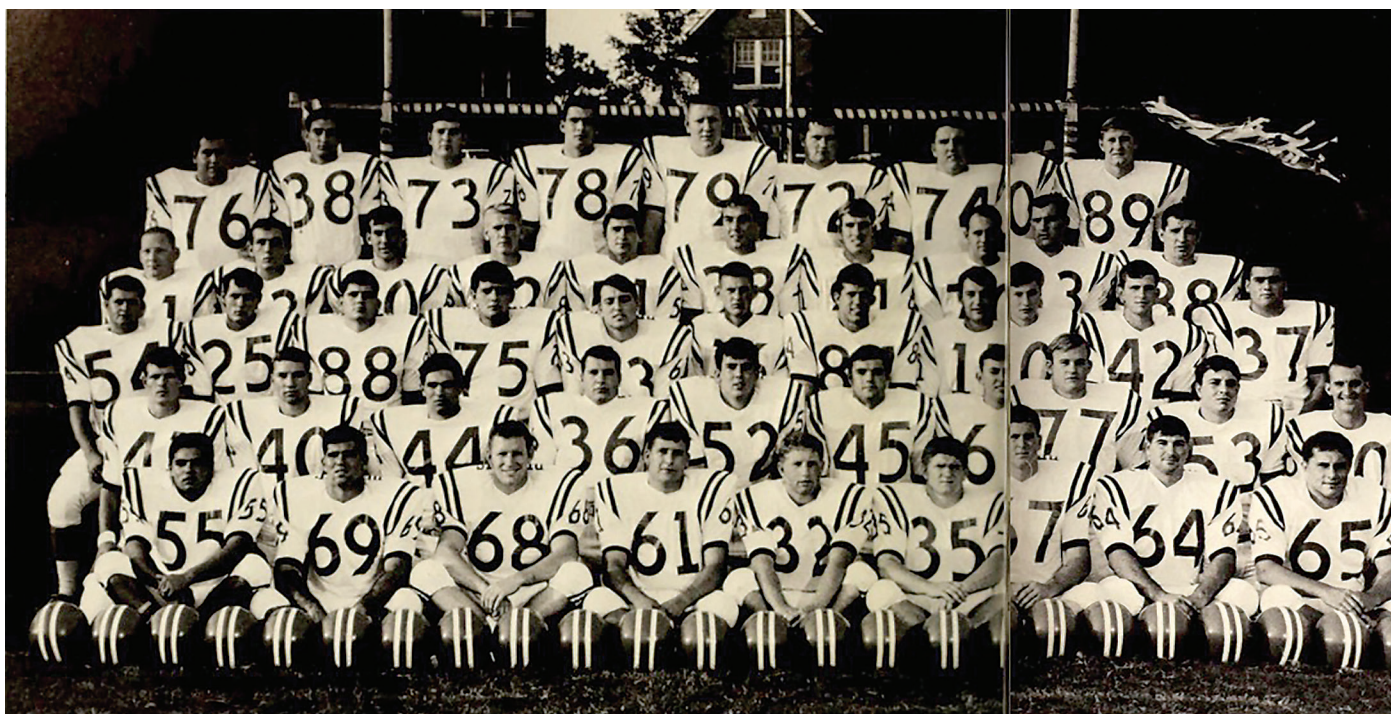
A young professional and recent Northwestern State University graduate is already paying it forward by creating a scholarship to support minority students. Kimberly K. Gallow, a 2015 graduate of Northwestern State, who has begun her career on campus as assistant director of Development, created the Kimberly K. Gallow Minority Scholarship to benefit minority students majoring in business administration. Scholarship recipients must maintain a 2.0 or better grade point average.

“I learned that it is important to build a culture of giving because it impacts not only our university but our students and the future of Northwestern State,” Gallow said. “Even a short term investment can benefit NSU in a variety of different ways including providing scholarships, covering expenses in academic departments and also being able to drive real change for NSU.”

Gallow is a native of Lafayette and a May 2015 graduate of NSU, earning a degree in business administration. She previously held positions at NSU as a recruiter for Acadiana and the greater New Orleans area and as assistant director of Alumni Affairs, where she managed programs, events and activities based on geographical region, class years and specifically targeted young alumni to increase engagement with NSU.

As an undergraduate, Gallow was a member of the Demon Dazzler Dance Line and involved with the Presidential Leadership Program, the Student Government Association, the Student Activities Board, Freshman Connection and KNWD Radio Station. During her senior year, she created an empowerment organization called La Belle Femme.

“Because of Northwestern State, I was able to gain a valuable education, real world experience and even the opportunity to work for my alma mater,” Gallow said. “The faculty, staff and professors in the College of Business challenged me to think outside of the box. Because of them, I am where I am today. I am confident in my career and carry purple pride with me everywhere I go.”



The 1966 squad defied preseason predictions and went 9-0.

1966 FOOTBALL

Reunion of undefeated 1966 team will take place during Homecoming



COACHING STAFF: Coach Red Phillips, Coach Gene Knecht, Head Coach Jack Clayton, Coach Alvin Brown, Coach John Ropp.



TRAINING STAFF: John Porche, Eugene Christmas, Clay Harper, and Jack Milligan.

Perfection will be celebrated at Homecoming 2016 as the university commemorates the 50th anniversary of Northwestern State's unbeaten, top-ranked 1966 football team.

Team members and family members of players, coaches, trainers, managers and others are invited to participate.

Major events during the weekend include a Friday evening banquet, the Saturday morning N-Club Hall of Fame ceremony and the 6 p.m. Homecoming football game at Turpin Stadium against longtime rival McNeese. The 1966 Demons will be recognized on the field at the game, said the reunion organizer, NSU assistant athletic director Haley Taitano.

Coached by Jack Clayton, with assistants Alvin "Cracker" Brown, Gene Knecht, Red Phillips and John Ropp, the Demons finished 9-0, won the Gulf States Conference championship and

were ranked No. 1 nationally in the NAIA poll. They capped their perfect season with a comeback win at home, 27-24, over Southeastern Louisiana. No other opponent scored more than 14 points (once) against NSC, who won by an average of 17 points.

Six players on the 1966 team -- All-American defensive back Al Dodd, quarterback Don Guidry, offensive lineman Ross Gwinn, receiver Al Phillips, quarterback Mike Pool and receiver Dick Reding -- are on the Top 100 Demon Players of All-Time roster selected during the 2007 centennial celebration of NSU football.

For additional information about the reunion, email Taitano at blounth@nsula.edu or call her at 318-357-4278.

For the reunion schedule and to register online, visit <http://nsudemons.com/sports/2016/4/28/1966-football-team-reunion.aspx?path=football>.

Barbier fills out baseball coaching staff

When it came to filling out his first Northwestern State baseball coaching staff, first-year head coach Bobby Barbier reached into a few realms of his past.

After being named head coach in June, Barbier, a former Academic All-American baseball player and a December 2006 NSU graduate, rounded out his staff by hiring pitching coach Chris Bertrand and hitting coach Taylor Dugas.

Barbier retained assistant coach and recruiting coordinator G.T. McCullough from former coach Lane Burroughs' staff.

While Barbier and McCullough spent the past two seasons on the staff with McCullough, the new Demons skipper formed relationships with his two new hires in earlier stages of his career.

Barbier's relationship with Bertrand began when the pair were young assistant coaches repeatedly crossing paths on the recruiting trail – Barbier at Northwestern State and Bertrand at LSU. Barbier recalled meeting Bertrand at summer tournaments and discussing the finer points of the game and the recruiting process as the pair began their coaching climbs.

In the decade plus since those meetings, Bertrand has become a respected pitching coach who helped LSU to three NAIA World Series appearances before a successful four-year run as the head coach at NCAA Division III's Texas-Tyler.

Before spending four years as the head coach at UT Tyler, Bertrand spent seven years as the pitching coach and associate head coach at LSU where his pitching staffs set three single-season school records, including the mark for strikeouts (476), which still stands.

An Abbeville native, Bertrand compiled a 119-69 mark as the UT Tyler head coach, collecting three

American Southwest Conference championships and reaching the NCAA Division III regionals on three occasions.

He tutored 41 all-conference and eight all-region players with the Patriots.

When it came to completing his first Demons staff, Barbier reached into his more recent past and again came up with a Louisiana native who makes his return to the Pelican State.

Taylor Dugas, a Lafayette native and a multiple school-record holder at Alabama, rounded out Barbier's first staff as the Demons new hitting coach.

Dugas is a two-time Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft pick, being taken in the eighth round of the 2011 draft by the Chicago Cubs and again in the eighth round in 2012 by the New York Yankees.

After parts of three seasons in the minor leagues, Dugas was promoted to the Yankees on July 1, 2015. He finished his professional career with a .283 batting average while drawing 195 walks.

At Alabama, Dugas played for former Northwestern State head coach Mitch Gaspard and Barbier, who was an assistant on Gaspard's staff. Dugas owns Alabama career records for hits (334), singles (235), doubles (67) and triples (18).

In addition to being the Demons hitting coach, Dugas will work with the NSU outfielders and base runners.

"In addition to Bertrand and Dugas, former Demons pitcher Jeff Stovall joins another NSU pitching alumnus, Brandon Smith, as the team's graduate managers.

For Barbier, adding Bertrand and Dugas to the already-strong bond he and McCullough shared was an easy decision.



Bobby Barbier



Chris Bertrand



Taylor Dugas

"I am excited about the coaches who have decided to join our staff. As excited as I am about their ability to coach and recruit, they are all men of great character who will help teach the standards we expect our players to live up to."

— Coach Barbier

NORTHWESTERN STATE

NSU soccer marks 20th anniversary

From its very first match on Aug. 31, 1996, Northwestern State women's soccer has plenty to show in its first 20 years of existence.

The University will honor its soccer alumni and their contributions to the program Oct. 21 during a home match vs. Nicholls.

"The first NSU women's soccer match in school history occurred within a week of my start," said Greg Burke, NSU Director of Athletics. "From that moment, it has been an honor over the past 20 years to be a part of many great success stories."

Many women's soccer programs sprouted in the mid-1990s, but NSU found success earlier than most.

NSU's second team in 1997 won a surprise Southland Conference Tournament title, one of three teams to accomplish that feat in the program's first seven years.

Holly Horn was a staple on those early teams. The four-time all-conference selection played for two conference tournament champions (1997, 2000) and helped the Lady Demons to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2000.

Last year, Horn became the first NSU women's soccer player inducted into the N Club Hall of Fame, which honors the school's most prestigious student-athletes.

Maribeth Forrest was the program's first coach and guided the team to the surprise conference tournament title, while Pete Watkins and also Jimmy Mitchell led the program to rare early success.

Watkins posted the program's first non-losing season in his only campaign in 1998 (9-9-2) before Jimmy Mitchell led the squad to six winning seasons and another four seasons of even records in his tenure (1999-2011).

Mitchell's 2000 team was the first Louisiana school to make an NCAA Tournament, and NSU's three appearances are tied for the most of any current Southland Conference member.

Brittany Cargill starred with Horn on those early teams, earning three first-team All-Southland Conference selections and winning the conference player of the year award in 2000. Other all-conference honors went to key players such as Jacquai Lawrence, Hillarie Marshall, Missy Payne, Tiffany

Swingler, Shannon Tenney and Kim Weber.

Mitchell (SLC Coach of the Year in 2000 and 2002) and NSU had similar success over the next five years, winning conference tournament titles in 2002 and 2005 with corresponding NCAA appearances.

Katie Priest, a three-time all-conference pick, spearheaded the 2002 team as the SLC Player of the Year while Heather Penico won the league's freshman of the year honor.

Other standouts from that 2002 squad included Lawrence, Marshall, Rachel Folk, Brittany Hung, Stephanie Miller and Tara Powasnik as all-league selections. Goalkeeper Nellie Latiolas was named the SLC Tournament MVP for a gritty team missing several players because of injury.

Penico came full circle in 2005, earning the SLC's Player of the Year award while helping the Lady Demons edge Sam Houston State 1-0 in overtime of the conference tournament championship game to earn another NCAA Tournament appearance.

Fellow all-conference honorees included Powasnik, Miller, Ashley Hadley, Julie Zavala, Mya Walsh and Erin Hebert. Zavala provided the overtime goal to beat Sam Houston State.

Mitchell guided NSU to conference tournaments in eight of his first 10 seasons, the final appearance being in 2008.

Hebert cemented her status as one of the all-time NSU greats with three first-team All-SLC selections highlighted by the league's player of the year award in 2007.

More recently, Cassandra Briscoe and Esdeina Gonzalez were picked to All-SLC teams in 2015, leading a team that tied regular season champion Stephen F. Austin, conference tournament champion Southeastern and Southeastern Conference foe LSU.

Perhaps even more importantly, NSU boasts 13 SLC first-team all-academic selections and regularly has a team GPA above 3.5.

Jackie Strug won the 2014-15 SLC Steve McCarty Citizenship Award, exhibiting outstanding qualities in citizenship, sportsmanship, leadership and community service.

The Lady Demon soccer team celebrates winning the 2005 Southland Conference Tournament championship at home, one of the top moments in 20 years of the sport at NSU. The victory earned an NCAA Tournament appearance, the third in five years for the program.





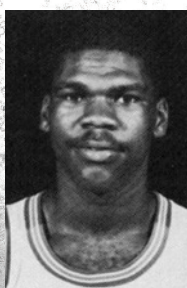
N-Club Hall of Fame inductees to be honored during Homecoming



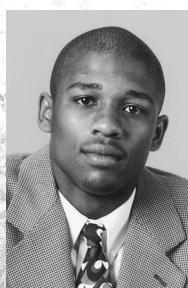
Becca Allen



John Barrier



George Jones



Patrick Palmer



Jimmy Stewart



Keith Thibodeaux



Mona Martin

Another set of historic Northwestern State athletes will be inducted into NSU's N-Club Hall of Fame on Oct. 22 as part of the university's annual Homecoming celebration.

The six NSU all-time greats include softball star Becca Allen, track and field decathlete John Barrier, workman-like basketball forward George Jones, standout football receiver Patrick Palmer, shutdown football cornerback Keith Thibodeaux and crafty pitcher Jimmy Stewart.

The 2016 class will be enshrined at 10 a.m. on Homecoming Saturday at Magale Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Receiving the N-Club's Distinguished Service Award is Mona Martin, one of the original 13 recipients of Louisiana's first female athletics scholarships before a storied coaching career at the high school and college levels.

Allen (1995-98) helped lay the groundwork for one NSU softball's golden eras in the late 1990s that carried over into the 2000s. The two-year all-conference shortstop was the MVP of the 1998 Southland Conference Tournament as the Lady Demons appeared in their first-ever NCAA Tournament. The NCAA Regional team selection finished her career in the top five of 19 NSU season and career records, including career starts (208, first), home runs (16, second), total bases (265, third) and slugging percentage (.442, third).

Barrier (1975-79) was a contender for the U.S. Olympic team in the decathlon before the USA withdrew from the Moscow Games and didn't conduct Olympic Trials. NSU coach

Jerry Dyes considers Barrier one of the best athletes he's ever coached, obtaining marks such as 230-0 in the javelin, 6-10 in the high jump and nearly 17 feet in the pole vault among other events. Barrier finished third in a USATF meet in Wichita, qualifying for the national meet.

Jones (1984-88) brought his hard hat to the basketball hardwood, finishing his career 10th in scoring (1,348 points, 12.6 ppg) and ninth in rebounding (701, 6.6 rpg). The gritty Captain Shreve product has three of the top 10 single-season field goal percentages in NSU history, shooting 62.8 percent (third), 61.6 percent (sixth) and 59 percent (10th) in separate campaigns. Also a defensive standout, his 107 career blocks ranked fifth on the school charts.

Football players Patrick Palmer (1994-97) and Keith Thibodeaux (1993-96) said they weren't best of friends when they competed in practice, but the two Top 100 Demon Players of All-Time members sharpened each other for stellar careers.

Palmer's 2,223 career receiving yards stood as the NSU standard until this past season with the then-second-best and ninth-best single-season totals of 829 and 657 receiving yards. He tied a single-game record with 216 yards on seven catches (second on the list now) to lead NSU to a win over Stephen F. Austin and a share of the 1997 Southland Conference championship and FCS playoff berth. The 1996 conference offensive player of the year played briefly in the NFL with three different teams before a three-year tenure with the CFL's Calgary Roughriders, winning the 2001 Grey Cup.

Thibodeaux was a three-year starter for coach Sam Goodwin, earning an all-conference first-team selection as a senior. The Opelousas native had 10 of his career 24 pass breakups as a senior to go with 162 career tackles. The fifth-round NFL Draft pick (1997) played from 1997-2001 with Washington, Atlanta, Minnesota and Green Bay.

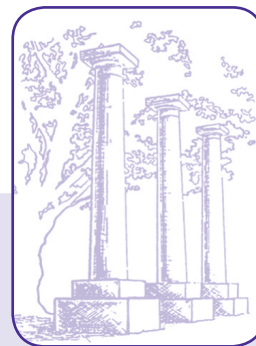
Stewart (1968-71) highlighted his NSU career with an All-Gulf States Conference first-team selection following a 7-4 campaign with a 1.69 ERA and 78 strikeouts in 71 innings. He finished 22 of his 23 starts in his last three seasons, often starting the first game of a doubleheader and coming out of the bullpen in the second game. The Doyline native reached the Triple-A level in the California Angels organization before a career-ending shoulder injury, but Stewart went on to have a successful 32-career in education as a high school baseball coach and principal in Webster Parish. Playing basketball at NSU in his first two seasons, he and his brother Buddy created the Stewart Boys Scholarship endowment.

Martin helped the Lady Demons to the 1989 NCAA Tournament in her only season on staff as an associate head coach following a highly successful run at Natchitoches Central, winning state titles in 1981, 1986 and 1987 with a perfect record and national coach of the year honor in 1986. She returned to the high school ranks at West Monroe before taking over at ULM for 19 seasons, which ended in 2014. Martin's 263 wins is the most in ULM program history, and she was a two-time conference coach of the year.



NSU CLASS RINGS

Northwestern State University class rings and jewelry are now available to graduates and alumni through Josten's. Rings are numbered sequentially, beginning with Ring #1 that was presented to NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson, a 1994 graduate, earlier this year by the staff in Alumni and Development. Tonia Henderson, a 1993 NSU graduate, was presented with a matching necklace pendant. Six NSU class ring options are available. Graduating seniors will be able to order their rings, along with graduation invitations and other items, during Grad Fest each semester. They will receive their rings during a ring ceremony just prior to commencement. Alumni can order a class ring or other NSU jewelry by visiting Jostens.com and selecting Northwestern State University as the user's school group.



In Memory

- 1947 – Mary Lee Sigler Posey, June 17, 2016, Natchitoches
- 1949 - Jerry Wise, Aug. 29, 2016, DeQuincy
- 1950 – Helen Fay Sellers, June 25, 2016, Corpus Christi, Texas
- 1958 – Jimmy D. "Coach" Hayes, June 18, 2016, Tyler, Texas
- 1958 – Jimmy Stothart, June 1, 2016, Coushatta
- 1959 - Gloria Jean Willis Berman, June 3, 2016, Kennewick, Washington
- 1961 – Percy Little, March 31, 2016, Bastrop
- 1967 - Carroll Long – Aug. 19, 2016, Natchitoches
- 1969 – Joseph C. "Jody" Nelson, May 13, 2016, Lindale, Texas
- 1970 – Dr. Raymond Gilbert, June 26, 2016, Natchitoches
- 1987 - Beebe Martin – Aug. 4, 2016, Natchitoches
- April Cosette Donald Wise, May 27, 2016, Natchitoches
- Gail Stern Kwak – Aug. 5, 2016, Natchitoches
- Jimmie D. Long Sr. – Aug. 9, 2016, Natchitoches
- Diana Zacarias – April 2, 2016, Natchitoches



Alumni visiting Natchitoches/Northwestern State are welcome to stop by Café DeMon, located at Watson Library. Indoor and outdoor seating is available at Café DeMon, which is operated by Sodexo and sells Starbucks products. Hours of operation are 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Hours may vary on holidays, during finals week and during semester breaks. For more information, visit the [NSU Campus Dining Facebook](#) page.



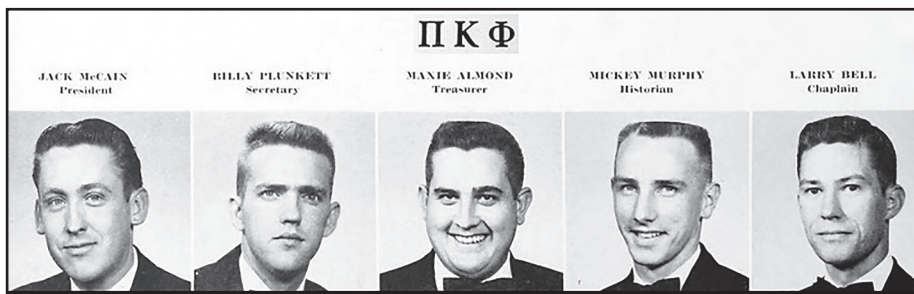
If you are planning a visit to campus, be sure to visit natchitoches.com to help plan your itinerary. There are always activities, events, exhibits and attractions that appeal to visitors that take place year-round in Natchitoches and Cane River Country.

Guess Who



Homecoming 2001: For the first time, Northwestern State included men in the Homecoming Honor Court. Can you name NSU's first Homecoming King and his Queen? The two are pictured being crowned by 2000 Homecoming Queen Virginia Dixon and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. Submit answers by emailing jacksonl@nsula.edu or by calling (318) 357-4553.

Looking Back



Above: 1957 Below: 1966

The charter membership of Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, formerly Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Nu, nationalized 40 years ago on Sept. 22, 1956. Jack McCain Jr. served as Archon (president), during the fall semester. Jerry Payne served as Archon in the spring of 1957. Other leaders were John McTyre, Mickey Murphy, Bucky Tumminello, Robert Kelly, Barney Seiler, Don Cook, Roy Baldwin, Alva Lary, J.D. Montgomery. Their sweethearts were Peggy Kerr and Clois Warner.



Answer to the Summer Guess Who

The Current Sauce editor from 1956-57 who went on to enjoy a long career as a celebrated sports writer was Jerry Byrd. Those who guessed correctly are as follows:

Mike Murphy (1959), Natchitoches
Glenn Sapp (1971), Waskom, Texas
Patrick Williams (1961, 1962), Monroe
Gayle Howell (1966), Natchitoches
Bill Cantrell (1968), Shreveport

Jane Timms (1973), Bossier City
Yvonne Hollingsworth Pirtle (1957), Ball
Laurie Gentry
Johnnie Emmons (1953), Natchitoches
Tom Kelly (1959), Dodson
Dr. William R. Rambin (1960), Monroe
C. Don Morgan Jr. (1957), Baton Rouge
Hannah Ricks (1972, 2004), Many
Craig Poleman (1985), Shreveport
Ray Burnham (1957, 1966), Springhill
Lonnie Bennett (1955), Monroe
Philip Timothy (1976), Deville
Patty (1966, 1974) and Wayne (1969) Walker, Natchitoches
Linda Morehead
Venton (1959, 1979) and Glenda (1960) Coburn, Anacoco
Michael Price (1974), Bossier City
Shirley Clark (1950), Shreveport
Marsha Whitford (1966), Shreveport
Norbert P. Vincent (1960), Baton Rouge
James Lipsey (1959), Shreveport
Bobby Shields (1974), Shreveport
Steve Gaspard (1970), Bossier City
Gary DeBlieux (1970), Natchitoches
Tom Daniel (1971), Shreveport
Sue Campbell, Provencal
Denman Shaffer (1967), Shreveport
Cathy Warner
Jean Bamburg (1962), Bossier City
Jim Rougeau (1958), Shreveport
Tom Woltz (1979), Houston
Mary Miles Byrne Pozzi (1957), Houston
Perry Anderson (1985), Homer
Carolyn Warren (1960), Coushatta
Tom Barton (1979), Stella, North Carolina
John Rambin (1969), Pelican
Joe Spataro (1959), Monroe
Bob Birtman
Mickey Crnkovic (1958), Zwolle
Glynn Phillips (1959), Sausalito, California
Rudy Hines (1978), Benton
Trey J. Allen, Haughton
Wade Bonds (1972), Haughton
Ray Timm (1957), Columbus, Mississippi
Jim Martin (1985), Pearl, Mississippi
Ronald Byrd (1954), Shreveport
George A. Cates (1959), Oro Valley, Tucson, Arizona
Christina Palomo (2014), Los Angeles
J.W. Beck (1958), Jackson, Mississippi
Bobby Leach (1955), Corpus Christi, Texas
Donnie Meisner (1963), Fayetteville, Arkansas
Ruth Simmons Stedman (1958), Pleasant Hill
Mike Hyams, (1962), Dawsonville, Georgia

Class of 2020



Nearly 1,400 new students began the Fall 2016 semester with New Student Convocation, a ceremony to mark the beginning of their academic journey at Northwestern State University. The class of 2020 is one of the largest freshman classes in the university's history.